

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert at page 13, after line 23, the following paragraph:

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides a method for fixing a toner image, comprising:

passing an image bearing material bearing a toner image thereon through a nip between a fixing belt and a pressure member while applying heat to the toner image to fix the toner image on the image bearing material, wherein the fixing belt has a U form at the nip,

wherein said fixing belt is heated and winds around the pressure member before the nip formed by the fixing belt and the pressure member;

wherein the nip has a shape such that the nip is concaved toward a side of the fixing belt contacting the toner image;

wherein a toner that forms said toner image on the image bearing material is the toner according to the present invention.